

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,383

Examiner

Ajay Vasudeva

Applicant(s)

WATABE ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 9/26/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date rec'd 2/10/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Art Unit: 3617

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stephen Adrian on 2/22/2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

- On page 1 (line 14), after "electric", "**lords**" has been changed to – **loads** --.

In claim 1

- On line 1, before "an internal combustion engine", "**system for starting**" has been changed to – **starting system of** --.
- On line 5, before the colon ":", "**including**" has been changed to -- **comprising** --.
- On line 10, after "electric actuator and the electric loads", the semicolon " ; " has been changed to a comma -- , --.

In claim 4

- On line 3, after "period of time", "**when the engine is stopped**" has been changed to – **since stopping of the engine** --.

Art Unit: 3617

In claim 5

- On line 2, after "position is kept selected", "**when the engine is stopped**" has been changed to – **since stopping of the engine --**.

In claim 7

- On line 1, before "an internal combustion engine", "**system for starting**" has been changed to – **starting system of --**.
- On line 5, before the colon ":", "**including**" has been changed to -- **comprising --**.
- On line 10, after "electric actuator and the electric loads", the semicolon ";" has been changed to a comma -- , --.

In claim 10

- On line 3, after "period of time", "**when the engine is stopped**" has been changed to – **since stopping of the engine --**.

In claim 11

- On line 2, after "position is kept selected", "**when the engine is stopped**" has been changed to – **since stopping of the engine --**.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or show a starting system of an internal combustion engine installed in an outboard motor, having a starter motor that starts the engine when voltage is supplied from a battery; and an ignition switch provided in a voltage supply circuit from the

Art Unit: 3617

battery to the starter motor, the electric actuator and the electric loads, the ignition switch having positions selected by an ignition key;

- wherein the positions of the ignition switch include a start position at which the starter motor, the electric actuator and the electric loads are supplied with the voltage from the battery; an on position at which the voltage supply to the starter motor is discontinued when the key is turned from the start position, a first off position at which the voltage supply to the electric actuator and the electric loads is discontinued when the key is turned from the on position, and a second off position at which the current supply to the electric actuator is still continued when the key is turned from the on position (as claimed in claim 1).

OR

- wherein the positions of the ignition switch include a first position at which the starter motor is supplied with the voltage from the battery, a second position at which the electric actuator and the electric loads are supplied with the voltage from the battery, a third position at which the voltage supply to the electric actuator and the electric loads is discontinued, and a fourth position at which the current supply to the electric actuator is still continued (as claimed in claim 7).

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3617

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (703) 306-5992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 1:00 pm--5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AV

Ajay Vasudeva
Examiner
Art Unit 3617



S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600